

December 3, 2021

Commissioners, we are writing to you to please be guided by equity and racial justice as you make your final redistricting decisions. We ask that you support modified Map F-1 (OP Map 81) submitted by the People's Bloc. This is the only map that does not dilute the voices of our Black community.

As an organization, the Black Los Angeles Young Democrats, work countless hours to ensure equity in our voices, in policies and most importantly in economic and community development. Now more than ever, as our communities are fighting to survive a pandemic, it is imperative that we listen and invest. The Black Los Angeles Young Democrats base fully supports this map, as it represents our needs and our values all the while ensuring a full recovery post pandemic by keeping the thriving assets and economic engines in our district, for years to come.

The commission is making history as being the first independent commission to draw new district lines for the county. However, it is very disappointing to see the voices of our Black residents being overlooked at the expense of more affluent areas. South LA has historically been a place of residence for our Black community and it is the last place in the county where the majority reside. In the last decade the demographics of LA County show that the Black population has declined by 7.3% according to the US Census. This is a worrisome trend that has occurred as a result of our community being driven out through racist policies, economic disinvestments, and gentrification. This trend will not improve in the next decade which is why it is important to draw a district that maintains the highest percentage of Black CVAP as seen in modified Map F-1.

Map G, which is being put forward, has very harmful effects to our communities in South LA by pairing more affluent parts of the coast with South LA. The issues and priorities of these two areas are vastly different. South LA has fought for racial justice, affordable housing, and has been one of the communities most impacted by COVID-19. When looking at the Redistricting Equity Index, you can see how these communities are on the complete opposite spectrums and the opportunities for power building are not there. Historic SD2 cities share similar economic hardships. 74.4% of Watts residents live under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), this figure is 55.6% in Compton, 48.7% in Koreatown, 46.9% in Hawthorne, 42.5 % in Hyde Park, and 38.6% in Inglewood. Just across the 405 Freeway, residents experience very different economic realities. For example, 8.2% of Manhattan Beach residents live below 200% of the FPL, a figure mirrored in other coastal cities (Rolling Hills Estates 8.5%, Palos Verdes Estates 9.7%, Hermosa Beach 10.3%, Rancho Palos Verdes 10.4%, and Redondo Beach 11.4%). Being paired with communities with more wealth and opposite interests will lead to political representation that compromises the needs and interests of South LA in favor of the coastal cities. These differences stretch far beyond economic interests. In the midst of the pandemic, the average number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents was as much as four to five times higher in historic SD2 cities east of the 405 than neighboring coastal cities, highlighting some of the health and economic factors leading to very different lived experiences. **The disparities in home ownership, denied mortgage applications, subprime mortgage rates, uninsured population, drinking water contaminants, and voter turnout are also stark when comparing communities east of the 405 and on the coast. It is crucial for communities of color to have political representation that understands our histories, cultures, and values. All of this will be diluted by pairing South LA with affluent cities on the coast. The pairing of these communities is in no way, shape or form a type of reparations, bringing in assets like the LAX airport is what our community needs.**

Map B-2 is also unacceptable as it reduces the representation of communities of color to only elect a candidate of choice in two districts instead of 3 like in the modified Map F-1. It does this by packing Black and Brown communities in District 2. The remaining 3 district would have the highest white CVAP. This is concerning given the demographics of LA County, where the white population only makes up 30% of the county and where minority communities are the majority.

We urge the commission to not be on the wrong side of history by creating lines that will disenfranchise our communities and that will take a decade to fix. Please move forward with the modified Map F-1 (OP 81) submitted by the People's Bloc.

Respectfully,

Black Los Angeles Young Democrats